

News Release



CHURCHILL DOWNS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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KENTUCKY DERBY 143 WINNER'S TROPHY TO ARRIVE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 AT 10:30 A.M. IN DIRECTOR'S ROOM

What: The priceless 14-karat gold trophy that will be presented to the owner of the 3-year-old Thoroughbred that wins the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on the first Saturday in May is scheduled to arrive at Churchill Downs Racetrack.

Speakers: **John Asher**, Churchill Downs Racetrack Vice President of Racing Communications
Susanne Blackinton-Juaire, Silversmith

When: **Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. EDT.**

Where: **Third Floor Clubhouse Director's Room, Churchill Downs.** Please enter Churchill Downs through Gate 17 off Central Avenue. There will be directional signage to the Director's Room. Parking is available outside Gate 17.

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Quick Facts:

- **Susanne Blackinton-Juaire** and husband **Bill Juaire** are key current members of the team that has crafted the Kentucky Derby trophy each year since 1975.
- Blackinton-Juaire is a fifth-generation silversmith whose family entered the profession in 1862 – 13 years before the first Kentucky Derby was run in 1875.
- The Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy is 22 inches tall and weighs approximately 65 ounces, excluding its jade base.
- The trophy was hand-crafted from 14-karat gold and green gold over a period of nearly five months.
- The trophy is topped by a 14-karat gold horse and rider and features a pair of horseshoe-shaped wreath handles.
- The front of the trophy is adorned by an 18-karat gold horseshoe that, in accordance with racing tradition, is pointed upward. Racing lore holds that the "luck will run out of a horseshoe" that is pointed downward. The Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy carried such a design from its introduction until 1997 when the horseshoe was turned 180 degrees.
- The trophy was first commissioned by Churchill Downs and Kentucky Derby legend **Col. Matt Winn** in 1924.

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